

Anez, Bob

From: Javairya Ahmed [JAhmed@doc.in.gov]
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To: Anez, Bob
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Contacts: Megan Graves,

April 28, 2006
IHCDA (317)232-7781

Java Ahmed, IDOC (317)

232-5780/Vicki Duncan

Gardner, Lt. Governor's

Office (317)232-4789

Lt. Governor Announces New Homelessness Initiative

Today Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) Board of Directors approved a request to administer a program to provide tenant-based rental assistance to ex-offenders. This is one of several steps identified in the Interagency Council on the Homeless Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

This pilot program is a partnership between IHCDA and the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC). The program is an extension of IDOC's Transition from Prison to Community Initiative. In 2006, the state will release approximately 16,000 adult offenders from Indiana's correctional facilities. Many of these individuals do not have stable housing identified prior to their release.

"The lack of affordable housing for those released from correctional facilities is a significant problem and is a contributor to homelessness across Indiana," said Lt. Governor Skillman, who serves as chair of IHCDA's Board of Directors and the Interagency Council on the Homeless.

"It is a situation that needs to be addressed. Rental assistance programs for these populations are a priority in the ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness. That is why we are moving ahead with this innovative effort between IHCDA and IDOC."

In addition to reducing the rate of homelessness, public safety is positively impacted when ex-offenders have access to affordable, permanent housing. "Our goal is to provide ex-offenders with housing opportunities, allowing them to focus on employment, treatment and other life activities," said Commissioner J. David Donahue, IDOC. "Housing is an essential step in community reintegration."

IHCDA and IDOC are seeking qualified entities to administer the program and provide ongoing reports to demonstrate program effectiveness. For more information or a copy of the request for proposals, please contact Lisa Coffman, IHCDA at 317-233-1814.

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